# PURSE SEINE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

This log contains detailed questions about the gear fished. Complete a new log for each uniquely configured gear (as defined below) **set** during a trip. These unique configurations may be based on such variables as net length, purse line length, ring type, *etc.* Any changes in these fields require completion of a new Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log. Number each gear configuration sequentially.

If the gear is set out and hauled more than once during a trip, do not complete a new Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log for the multiple sets. Rather, record on the Purse Seine Set Log which gear numbers are being set. In addition, record any other information necessary to understand the manner in which the gear was set/hauled in COMMENTS.

If the vessel has two or more identical gears which are set, complete only one Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log and record the consecutively assigned numbers of all the identical gears described in GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1). See the purse seine definitions below and GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1) for more information on defining and numbering gears.

If information is unavailable or unknown to any questions except a "No/Yes" question, record a dash (-) in the field. If the answer to a "No/Yes" question is unknown, record a "9" on the line next to the code for "No" to indicate that the field was not skipped, but the answer is unknown. If a field relates to a question to which you have previously answered "No", leave the field blank.

Become familiar with the following definitions.

## DEFINITIONS

**Purse Seine:** A wall of netting equipped with rings (purse rings) along the lower edge, with a cable passing through these rings enabling the fisherman to close off the space surrounded by the net from below. See Figure 1.

**Purse Line:** The cable passing through the purse rings which, when drawn on, cinches the lower portion of the net closed.

**Sack/Bunt:** A section of smaller mesh sewn into the net in the middle or at either end which forms a bag-shaped pocket for trapping fish during hauling.

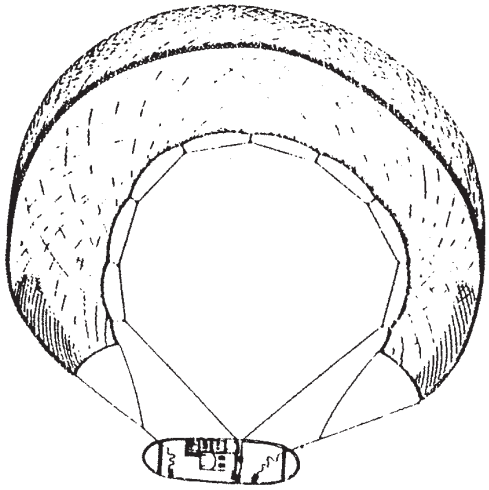

**Figure 1. Purse Seine.** (Source: *Commercial Fishing Methods: an introduction to vessels and gears, 3rd ed.* by John C. Sainsbury, published by Blackwell Science)

**Tom Weight:** A special sinker used to reduce the gap between the wings of the seine during the pursing stage. See Figure 3.

**Hauling Device:** A mechanized device aboard the vessel for hauling in the seine.

**Gear:** A seine (net and/or bunt), with an attached floatline and leadline, connected along the bottom with rings to a purse line. See Figure 2.

## INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header Fields **A, B and D** refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

**1. GEAR NUMBER(S):** Record the consecutive number(s) assigned to each uniquely configured gear set and for which characteristics are described. See the definition of gear in the introduction.

**NOTE:** If two or more identical gears are used, assign consecutive numbers to each gear and record all of these numbers on one Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log.

Example: The first uniquely configured purse seine is "1", and its characteristics will

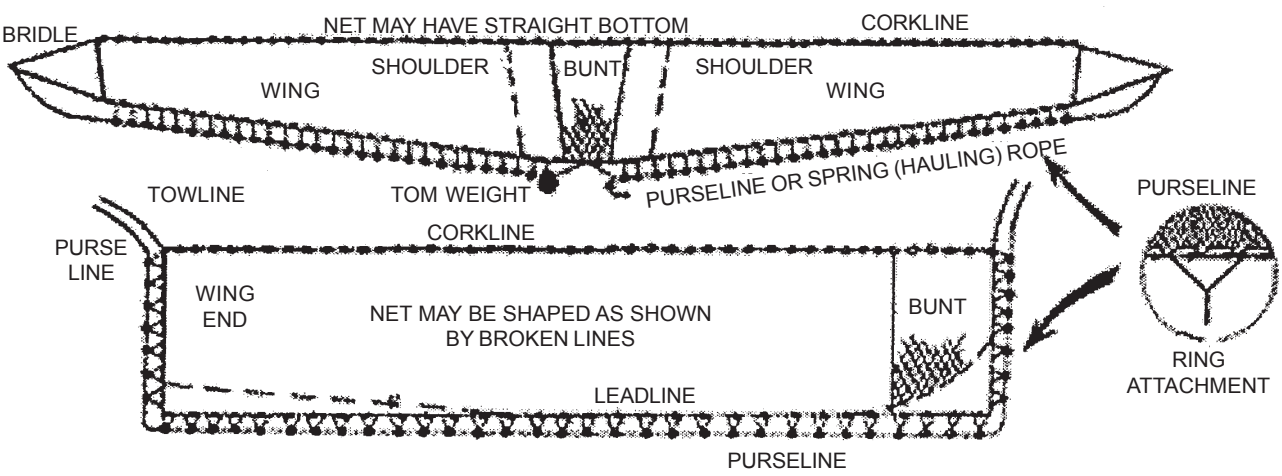


**Figure 2. Purse Seine Gear.** (Source: *Commercial Fishing Methods: an introduction to vessels and gears, 3rd ed.* by John C. Sainsbury, published by Blackwell Science)

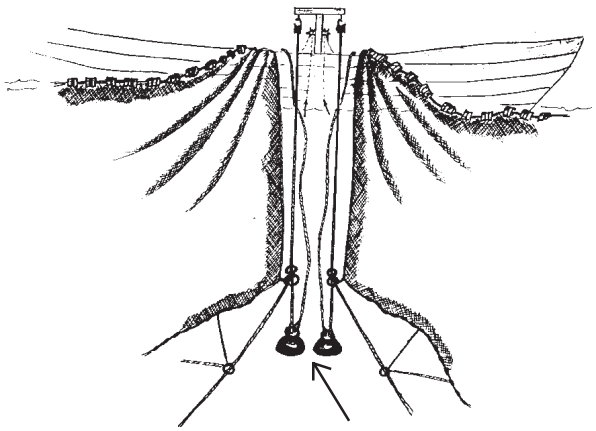

**Figure 3. Tom Weights.** (Source: *Commercial Fishing Methods: an introduction to vessels and gears, 3rd ed.* by John C. Sainsbury, published by Blackwell Science)

be recorded on one Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log. Two other purse seines are used during the trip. These differ from #1 but are identical to each other. They are "2" and "3", and their characteristics are recorded on a second Purse Seine Gear Characteristics Log.

## SEINE CHARACTERISTICS

**2**. **NET LENGTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the overall length of the net section of the purse seine. This information may be obtained from the captain. **Do not** include the length of the sack/bunt in this measurement.

**3. SACK/BUNT LENGTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the overall length of the sack/bunt section of the purse seine. This information may be obtained from the captain. **Do not** include the length of the net in this measurement.

**4. NET DEPTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the overall depth of the net section. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**5. SACK/BUNT DEPTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the overall depth of the sack/bunt section of the purse seine. This information may be obtained from the captain. This section may not be as deep as the NET DEPTH.

**6. MESH SIZE OF NET:** Record, in hundredths of inches, the mesh size used in the net section of the purse seine for this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

Example: The captain says that the mesh size is "1 $^{1}/_{4}$ ". Record "1.25".

**7. MESH SIZE OF SACK/BUNT:** Record, in hundredths of inches, the mesh size used in the sack/bunt section of the purse seine for this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

Example: The captain says that the mesh size is "1 $^{1}/_{4}$ ". Record "1.25".

**8. TWINE SIZE OF NET:** Record, in whole millimeters, the twine size of the net webbing used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**9. TWINE SIZE OF SACK/BUNT:** Record, in whole millimeters, the twine size of the sack/bunt webbing used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**10. CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL OF NET:** Record the type of construction material used in the body of the net (not including the sack/bunt section) by placing and "X" next to the appropriate code:

00 = Unknown.
01 = Nylon.
02 = Poly.
03 = Kevlar®.
04 = Spectra®.
98 = Combination, record all construction material types on line 10A.
99 = Other, record the construction material type on line 10A.

**11. CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL OF SACK/BUNT:** Record the type of construction material used in the body of the sack/bunt (not including the net section) by placing and "X" next to the appropriate code:

00 = Unknown.
01 = Nylon.
02 = Poly.
03 = Kevlar®.
04 = Spectra®.
98 = Combination, record all construction material types on line 11A.
99 = Other, record the construction material type on line 11A.

## GEAR CHARACTERISTICS

**12. FLOATLINE LENGTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the length of floatline used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**13. FLOATLINE DIAMETER:** Record, in hundredths of inches, the diameter of the floatline used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**14. LEADLINE LENGTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the length of leadline used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**15. LEADLINE DIAMETER:** Record, in hundredths of inches, the diameter of the leadline used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**16. PURSE LINE LENGTH:** Record, in whole fathoms, the length of purse line used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**17. PURSE LINE DIAMETER:** Record, in hundredths of inches, the diameter of the purse line used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

**18. LEADLINE WEIGHT:** Record, in whole pounds, the **total** estimated weight of the leadline used in this entire gear. Do **not** include the weight of any additional weights (*i.e.* tom weights) that are attached to this gear.

### ADDITIONAL WEIGHTS

**19. USED?:** Record wether any additional weights are used on the leadline of this gear by placing and "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

**NOTE:** Tom weights are additional weights.

**20. WEIGHT:** Record, in whole pounds, the **total** estimated weight of the additional weights used on the leadline of this gear. Do **not** include the weight of the leadline itself.

**21. HAULING DEVICE:** Record which device was used for hauling the gear aboard the vessel by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Power Block.
2 = Triplex.
3 = Drum.
9 = Other, record the hauling device on line 21A.

## PURSE RINGS

**22. TYPE:** Record the type of rings used to secure the purse line to the net by place an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Round.
2 = Snap.
3 = Combination, record all ring types on line 22A.
9 = Other, record the ring type on line 22A.

**23. MATERIAL:** Record the type of material used to construct the rings by place an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Steel.
2 = Iron.
3 = Alloy.
9 = Other, record the ring type on line 23A.

## COMMENTS

Record any additional information about this gear, *i.e.* unusual arrangements of the gear. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of this log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.